

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
Edward Garvey
LeRoy Koppendrayer

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of **Garden Valley Telephone Company's** Request for Approval of Certified Actual Costs Associated with the **Pennington County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: September 29, 2000

DOCKET NO. **P409/ES-00-1279**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911
SYSTEM COSTS

BACKGROUND

On July 21, 1981, the Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Pennington County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services system.

On September 17, 1987, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for costs incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Services system in Pennington County.

On January 26, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for costs incurred for placing another portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in Pennington County.

On March 22, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Garden Valley Telephone Company for costs incurred for placing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in Pennington County.

On October 26, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for costs incurred for placing another portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in Pennington County.

On October 31, 1996, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by U.S. West Communications for adding tandem based 911 Emergency Services with Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and Automatic Line Identification (ALI) in Pennington County.

On September 1, 2000, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by Independent Emergency Services, Limited Liability Company for adding a portion of ANI service in the 911 Emergency Services system in Pennington County.

CURRENT FILING

In May 29, 1986, Pennington County contracted with Garden Valley Telephone Company (the Company) to install their portion of 911 service in the Pennington County 911 Emergency Services system.

On May 16, 2000, the Company installed inter-exchange, out-switch trunks to the Goodridge, St. Hilaire and Thief River Falls Exchanges. The Company also installed Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) trunk circuits from the Erskine to the Thief River Falls and Turtle River to Thief River Falls PSAPs. The Company also installed two inter-tandem trunks from Erskine to Turtle River and a transfer line to the Erskine Exchange. These trunk modifications were made to add ANI to their portion of the 911 Emergency Telephone Services System in Pennington County.

On August 28, 2000, the Company certified the actual costs it incurred for the provision of the additional trunk circuits to supply ANI service.

The Company is now requesting Commission approval of the actual 911 Emergency System and ANI system costs. Commission approval is necessary before the Department of Administration (DOA) will make payments for 911 system costs.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11, subd. 3 states:

Subd. 3 (METHOD OF PAYMENT; CERTIFICATION.) A public utility incurring reimbursable costs under subdivision 1 or 2 shall certify those costs to the commissioner of administration. The certification shall be in a form as prescribed by the commissioner after consultation with the public utilities commission. If the commissioner and the commission approve the certified costs as appropriate and accurate, the commissioner shall pay the certified costs from money appropriated for that purpose within 90 days following receipt by the commissioner of the certified costs. The commissioner of administration shall estimate the amount required to reimburse public utilities for the state's obligations under subdivisions 1 and 2 of this section and the governor shall include the estimated amount in the biennial budget request.

Garden Valley Telephone Company has certified, in writing, that the elements of 911 services and associated costs indicated on Attachment A, reflect only charges for services actually rendered in the direct provision of 911 service in Pennington County.

All charges listed on Attachment A are in accordance with the Company's tariffs.

The Commission finds that the costs for 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Pennington County which have been certified by the Company are appropriate and accurate.

Policy References:

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11 System Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1400 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Recurring Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1500 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Central Office Modification Costs

ORDER

1. The costs identified on Attachment A accompanying this Order are approved as appropriate and accurate pursuant to the Commission's March 21, 2000 Standing Order Designating Filings Requesting Certification of 911 Costs As Filings Subject to Approval Under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, Subd. 7, Docket No. P-999/CI-99-1723.
2. This Order does not approve payment of any 911 system costs. Any possible future approval of payment for system costs shall be granted by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. Section 403.11.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I _____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the ____ day of _____, 2000 (s)he served the attached **Order Approving Certified 911 System Costs for Pennington County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P409/ES-00-1279.**

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

MR BILL SCHNELLMAN
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Subscribed and sworn to before me, _____

a notary public, this _____ day of

_____, 2000.

Notary Public